

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 /033 W

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R 151002Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2768

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6454

CAMBODIA-B NO 25

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PGOV, AEMBR, CB, US

SUBJ: SAUKHAM KHOY'S APOLOGIA

1. APPARENTLY STUNG BY THE ACTIONS OF THE GKR IN DEPOSING HIM AS PRESIDENT PAR INTERIM, AND THE DECLARATION BY LONG BORET THAT SAUKHAM KHOY HAD LEFT ON APRIL 12 FOR AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION, THE LATTER ADDRESSED A LETTER ON APRIL 15 TO AMBASSADOR DEANIN BANGKOK. HE ASKED THAT AMBASSADOR DEAN TRANSMIT THE TEXT OF A SECOND ENCLOSED LETTER TO LONG BORET, WITH COPIES TO THE PRESIDENTS OF THE TWO CHAMBERS, THE FANK CHIEF OF STAFF, THE MINISTERS OF DEFENSE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION, AND THE UHMER EMBASSIES IN BANGKOK, VIENTIANE AND SAIGON. HE ALSO ASKED THAT IT BE BROADCAST BY VOA IN KHMER, ENGLISH, FRENCH, THAI, LAOTIAN, VIETNAMESE AND CHINESE.

2. HE WAS PARTICULARLY SHOCKED, HE TOLD AMBASSADOR DEAN, BY LONG BORET'S PUBLIC DECLARATION THAT SAUKHAM KHOY HAD LEFT FOR AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION, WHEN LONG BORET KNEW HE HAD LEFT WITH AMBASSADOR DEAN TO CONTINUE EFFORTS IN BANGKOK TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND TO AVOID A BLOOD BATH. HE WONDERED IF THIS GREATEST FAULT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN HIS PLAN TO SECURE THE RESIGNATION OF THE LONG BORET GOVERNMENT AND TO REPLACE IT WITH ONE LED BY CHAU SAU IN ORDER TO GET A CEASE FIRE.

3. THE NINE-PARAGRAPH ENCLOSED LETTER RELATES THE
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EVENTS OF THE MORNING OF APRIL 12, AMBASSADOR DEAN'S

LETTER AND PERSONAL VISIT TO THE ACTING PRESIDENT THAT MORNING, AND THAT HE HAD SENT AN AIDE TO SUMMON LONG BORET, WHO CAME TO SAUKHAM KHOY'S HOUSE AT 0730, WITH AN IDENTICAL LETTER FROM THE AMBASSADOR. HE TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT OF THE TWO OF THEM ONE SHOULD REMAIN BEHIND, WHILE THE OTHER SHOULD LEAVE FOR BANGKOK WITH AMBASSADOR DEAN TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR A QUICK PEACE IN ORDER TO AVOID A BLOOD BATH IN PHNOM PENH. LONG BORET IS REPORTED TO HAVE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD STAY IN PHNOM PENH, BUT WOULD SEND HIS FAMILY TO BANGKOK WITH SAUKHAM KHOY. HE ALSO INFORMED TWO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES WHO CALLED ON HIM OF HIS PLANS.

4. HE THEN DISCUSSED HIS CONTACTS IN BANGKOK WITH FONMIM KEUKY LIM, AND THE KHMER CHARGE, KHEP LOY HIENG. HE REGRETTED NOT HAVING TIME TO BROADCAST TO THE NATION BEFORE HIS HASTY DEPARTURE, BUT HE REMAINS ALWAYS AT HIS NATION'S SERVICE. HE WISHES LONG BORET SUCCESS IN HIS NOBLE AND COURAGEOUS MISSION OF FINDING A RAPID HUMANITARIAN SOLUTION TO THE NATIONAL DRAMA.

5. COMMENT: COPIES OF SAUKHAM KHOY'S LETTERS WILL BE POUCHED TO EA/LC-MR. RIVES. WE SHALL TELL HIM THAT THE USG HAS NO MEANS OF DIRECT TRANSMISSION OF HIS MESSAGE TO LONG BORET AND THAT HE SHOULD USE THE KHMER EMBASSY FOR THIS PURPOSE.

MASTERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO06454
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750131-0327
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750447/aaaabrqq.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUKHAM KHOY'S APOLOGIA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PGOV, CB, US, (LONG BORET), (SAUKHAM KHOY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006